LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amendment)

~~The test device of claim 1~~ A test device for monitoring a predetermined pressure load on a patient's foot as exerted by a body weight of the patient during walking, comprising:

a pressure sensor for being placed under the heel of the patient's foot for monitoring a predetermined pressure load;

the pressure sensor comprising a circular, ring-shaped, curved washer having a snap portion which is adapted for being snapped-over from a rest position under a predetermined pressure load of the patient's foot and snapped into an active monitoring position whereby the snapping action is accompanied by an audible signal and further by a sensitive sensing signal acting bodily against the heel of the patient's foot, the snap portion of the curved washer being returned again into its rest position upon relief of the predetermined pressure load in which the snap portion of the curved washer comprises a conically shaped elevation which surrounds a central opening of the curved washer and is adapted to snap an adjacent edge portion of the curved washer into its active monitoring position.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended)

The test device of claim ~~1~~ 2, in which the curved washer is arranged between first and second pressure plates that are designed as shoe inserts whereby a first pressure plate is used as a heel support for the patient's foot.

Claim 4 (Original)

The test device of claim 3 in which said first pressure plate which is used as a heel support of the patient's foot is provided with an elevated portion adapted for coming into contact with the snap portion of the curved washer.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)

A test device for monitoring a predetermined pressure load on a patient's foot as exerted by a body weight of the patient during walking, comprising:

a pressure sensor for being placed under the heel of the patient's foot for monitoring a predetermined pressure load;

the pressure sensor comprising a circular, ring-shaped, curved washer having a snap portion which is adapted for being snapped-over from a rest position under a predetermined pressure load of the patient's foot and snapped into an active monitoring position whereby the snapping action is accompanied by an audible signal and further by a sensitive sensing signal acting bodily against the heel of the patient's foot, the snap portion of the curved washer being returned again into its rest position upon relief of the predetermined pressure load;

in which the snap portion of the curved washer comprises a conically shaped elevation which surrounds a central opening of the curved washer and is adapted to snap an adjacent edge portion of the curved washer into its active monitoring position;

in which the curved washer is arranged between first and second pressure plates that are designed as shoe inserts whereby a first pressure plate is used as a heel support for the patient's foot; and

~~The test device of claim 4,~~ in which the curved washer is arranged within a recess of ~~a~~ the second pressure plate, the recess being aligned with an ~~the~~ elevated portion of the first pressure plate and being provided for limiting a snapped-over monitoring position of the snap portion of the curved washer.

Claim 6 (Original)

The test device of claim 3, in which the first and second pressure plates are designed substantially as dishes in the form of a rest for the patient's heel.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended)

A test device for monitoring a predetermined pressure load on a patient's foot as exerted by a body weight of the patient during walking, comprising:

a pressure sensor for being placed under the heel of the patient's foot for monitoring a predetermined pressure load;

the pressure sensor comprising a circular, ring-shaped, curved washer having a snap portion which is adapted for being snapped-over from a rest position under a predetermined pressure load of the patient's foot and snapped into an active monitoring position whereby the snapping action is accompanied by an audible signal and further by a sensitive sensing signal acting bodily against the heel of the patient's foot, the snap portion of the curved washer being returned again into its rest position upon relief of the predetermined pressure load;

in which the snap portion of the curved washer comprises a conically shaped elevation which surrounds a central opening of the curved washer and is adapted to snap an adjacent edge portion of the curved washer into its active monitoring position;

in which the curved washer is arranged between first and second pressure plates that are designed as shoe inserts whereby a first pressure plate is used as a heel support for the patient's foot; and

~~The test device of claim 3,~~ in which the first and second pressure plates are interlinked by a common pivot ~~means~~ for being relatively movable with respect to each other.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended)

The test device of claim 7 in which the common pivot ~~means~~ is provided in such a manner as to allow a positioning of the curved washer between the first and second pressure plates when adjusted into a relatively opened arrangement.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (New)

A test device for monitoring a predetermined pressure load on a patient's foot as exerted by a body weight of the patient during walking, comprising:

a pressure sensor which is to be placed under the heel of the patient's foot for monitoring a predetermined pressure load;

the pressure sensor comprising a circular, ring-shaped, curved washer having a snap portion which is formed with a conically shaped elevation adapted for being snapped-over from a rest position into an active monitoring position under a predetermined pressure load of the patient's foot whereby the snapping action of the snap portion is accompanied by an audible signal and further also by a sensitive sensing signal acting bodily against the heel of the patient's foot,

the conically shaped elevation surrounding a central opening of the curved washer and being adapted to snap-over an adjacent edge portion of the curved washer into said active monitoring position and to turn it back again into its rest position on a relief of the predetermined pressure load.

Claim 12 (New)

The test device of claim 11, in which the curved washer is arranged between first and second pressure plates that are designed as shoe inserts and cooperatively used for snapping-over the conically shaped elevation under a predetermined pressure load as applied against a first pressure plate of said first and second pressure plates and used as a heel support for the patient's foot.

Claim 13 (New)

The test device of claim 12 in which said first pressure plate is provided with a downwardly oriented elevated portion adapted for coming into contact with the conically shaped elevation of the curved washer which is positioned underneath the first pressure plate.

Claim 14 (New)

The test device of claim 13 in which the curved washer is arranged within a recess of the second pressure plate of said first and second pressure plates, the recess being aligned with the elevated portion of the first pressure plate and being provided for limiting the active monitoring position of the snap portion of the curved washer.

Claim 15 (New)

The test device of claim 12 in which said first and second pressure plates are designed substantially as dishes in the form of a rest for the patient's heel.

Claim 16 (New)

The test device of claim 12 in which said first and second pressure plates are interlinked by a common pivot for being movable with respect to each other between a relatively opened and a relatively closed mutual positioning.

Claim 17 (New)

The test device of claim 16 in which the common pivot is provided in such a manner as to allow a positioning of the curved washer between the first and second pressure plates when being in the mutually opened position.

Claim 18 (New)

The test device of claim 11 in which distinct predetermined pressure loads are obtained with correspondingly distinct spring characteristics of a multiple set of curved washers.

Claim 19 (New)

The test device of claim 11 in which distinct predetermined pressure loads are obtained by a laminate of a corresponding multiple arrangement of individual curved washers all of which are provided with the same spring characteristic.

Claim 20 (New)

The test device of claim 12 in which the curved washer is arranged within a recess of the second pressure plate of said first and second pressure plates, the recess being aligned with the elevated portion of the first pressure plate and being provided for limiting the active monitoring position of the snap portion of the curved washer.

Claim 21 (New)

The test device of claim 5, in which said elevated portion of said first pressure plate is disposed for coming into contact with the snap portion of the curved washer.

Claim 22 (New)

The test device of claim 5, in which the first and second pressure plates are designed substantially as dishes in the form of a rest for the patient's heel.

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

A test device for monitoring a predetermined pressure load on a patient's foot as exerted by the body weight of the patient during walking ~~comprises~~ has a pressure sensor which is designed as a circular, ring-shaped, curved washer having a snap portion in the form of a conically shaped elevation that ~~is adapted for being~~ can be snapped-over from a rest position into an active monitoring position when a predetermined pressure load is sensed. This ~~whereby~~ the snapping action is accompanied by an audible signal as well as by a sensitive sensing signal acting bodily against the heel of the patient's foot under which the test device is placed.